

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Charles "Lefty" Driesell on his much-deserved retirement and thank him for his contributions to the University of Maryland, its fans and the citizens of the great state of Maryland.

IN HONOR OF THE BAYONNE HIGH
SCHOOL FIGHTING BEES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bayonne High School Fighting Bees for winning the New Jersey North 1, Group IV state championship for the first time in the school's history. Their hard work, dedication, and talent led them to victory, and to the ultimate of high school football prizes, winning the state championship.

Coach Rich Rodriguez's philosophy, that every play of every game was of the utmost importance, proved true in the 25–23 win over Hackensack High. There was no room for the players to let up on their intensity. Bryan Smith took this philosophy to heart. Running hard, he rushed for 233 yards on 23 carries, and his determination was an example of the entire team's tireless efforts to reach their goal.

As they move on in life, the team can remember the lessons that earned them the honor of being able to call themselves champions—that with great effort, teamwork, and dedication to a cause, one can accomplish goals and win not only on the football field but also in life.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Bayonne High School Fighting Bees for their accomplishments on the football field. Congratulations, you make our community proud.

A TRIBUTE TO CONGREGATION
BETH SIMCHAT TORAH AND
RABBI SHARON KLEINBAUM

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, it is my very great personal pleasure to rise today to honor New York City's Congregation Beth Simchat Torah and its rabbi, Sharon Kleinbaum. CBST, as it is known to thousands of friends throughout the city and around the world, is the world's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender congregation, and on February 9, 2003, we will celebrate the start of CBST's 30th year of service to the community.

In 1973, ten people gathered in the basement of the Church of Holy Apostles in response to a small classified ad placed in the Village Voice. At the time, none of the national Jewish organizations supported gay rights. No synagogues officially welcomed gay members. The fact that we are able to join together, thirty years later, to celebrate and commemorate CBST is a testament to the strength of what those first congregants established—a place where it is possible to be both "openly gay and proudly Jewish," as Rabbi Kleinbaum

says, a community in which all journeys are respected.

This celebration is also evidence of the special place CBST occupies in the hearts of New Yorkers of all denominations and all sexualities, as a welcoming and loving place to celebrate one's faith. Every year, for the High Holidays services, CBST moves its services to the Jacob Javits Convention Center in order to accommodate the 3,000 or more people who are a part of the extended CBST family. In 2001, just two weeks after September 11th, CBST's services for Kol Nidre, the Jewish Day of Atonement, drew 6,000 people. I don't think I could adequately describe the important place CBST has had in the lives of so many of my fellow New Yorkers, but the numbers certainly begin to tell the story. I am proud to represent Congregation Beth Simchat Torah in Congress.

There have been many heroes in the history of CBST. This year, we will thank the congregation's rabbi, Sharon Kleinbaum, for ten years of visionary leadership. In the course of ten eventful years, it has been her love of the CBST community that has made CBST an ever-growing force for positive social change. CBST, like the larger gay community of New York City, has lost too many members to AIDS, and through the years, Rabbi Kleinbaum has helped many CBST members through their own sickness, and the loss of friends and loved ones. She is the leader of a new generation of young Jewish leaders, deeply committed to the Jewish tradition but innovative and progressive in her view of its celebration, and passionate in her belief in the power of faith in people's lives. Rabbi Kleinbaum occupies a truly treasured place in the gay community, the Jewish community, and in the hearts of thousands of New Yorkers, and I am also proud to call her my friend.

TRIBUTE TO FERRIS FOUNDATION
AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
IN HIGHER EDUCATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Ferris Foundation and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education for understanding the importance of international education programs.

In 1989, Dr. Richard Ferris created the Ferris Foundation for Graduate Education, Inc. to nurture the strong bonds between the people and institutions of the United States and Ireland. Since the beginning, the Ferris Foundation has invested resources in the creation of academic projects providing postgraduate education to outstanding scholars of both countries. Over the years, the Ferris Foundation has brought excellent young scholars from universities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to the United States for advanced studies in management and finance.

Last year, the Ferris Foundation and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education embarked on a partnership to give both African-American and Irish students an opportunity to learn about the Irish

and African-American cultures that exist in their respective countries.

The rector of the university system in Ireland worked with Dr. Ferris and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education to facilitate the implementation of this innovative program. The Association identified a number of scholarly and well-rounded students from some of the most prestigious African-American universities. The four students who were selected for graduate study in Ireland include: James Keeton of Albany State; Akisha Campbell of Florida A & M University; Joseph Easter of Jackson State University and Keisha Senter of Florida A & M University. These four distinguished scholars will experience Irish culture through a planned program of graduate study and through employment in an American corporation in Ireland.

This unique project not only provides each participant with a superior graduate education but also an introductory employment experience and a perspective on American culture seen through their new "Irish eyes."

I wish the Ferris Foundation and the Republic of Ireland and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education well as they continue on the path of fostering cultural exchange and embodying the motto of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education in "Keeping the Doors of Opportunity Open."

THE FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK
SYSTEM

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to ask for further congressional scrutinizing of recommended changes to the Federal Home Loan Bank system.

The Federal Home Loan Bank system has enjoyed continued success as a regionally based cooperative that provides critical liquidity to its constituent member institutions.

The currently proposed changes involve three major issues that include the assumption of new powers, the dismantling of the regional character of the System, both of which bring into issue concerns about corporate transparency, and whether the FHLBank's disclosure practices are adequate.

It is thought by many in Congress and in the industry that efforts by some members of the FHLBank system to create a new market for securitization of mortgages would expand its mission in an era of economic uncertainty. Congress should have an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of any proposed reforms before the system is allowed to abrogate its traditional mission.

Moreover, the adoption of a multi-district charter would undermine the strength of the system which lies in its regional structure that allows each bank to have independence and flexibility in addressing its varying needs. As a result, further consolidation could threaten competition and lead to a limitation of access to credit for home ownership.

Finally, any expansion of FHLBank powers and activities should be accompanied by more stringent disclosure requirements; additional